

(d) the total estimated value of annual production of these units;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to set up industrial complexes for these industries; and

(f) If so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of the package for the tiny sector are being worked out.

(c) The actual number of tiny units functioning in the country at present is not available. The 2nd All-India Census of Registered Small Scale Industries Units was carried out for the units registered upto 31st March, 1988. As per this Census, 10.55 lakh SSI units were registered out of which 6.10 lakh units were found working, but data could be collected from 5.82 lakh units only. Out of total registered units for which data were collected, 95.9 percent of the total registered SSI units were tiny units having investment in plant and machinery below Rs. 5 lakhs. During 1995-96, there were 20.84 lakh registered SSI units in the country. Going by the same ratios of working units and the tiny units, it is estimated that by the end of 1995-96 about 11.56 lakh registered tiny units were functioning in the country.

(d) No information on the annual Production of tiny units is available.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Impact of Import on Domestic Wire and Cable Industry**

1767. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have surveyed the impact of its import policy on the domestic wire and cable industry;

(b) if so, the findings thereof especially due to the permitted project import of all equipments including wire & cables for power and industrial projects; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to rationalise the situation vis-a-vis import of cables and domestic cables so that the Indian Cable Industry can compete with foreign suppliers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Ministry of Commerce has not conducted any survey of the impact of import policy on the domestic Wire and Cable Industry.

#### **Financial Irregularities**

1768. SHRI RAMSAGAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ

No.4285 dated March 21, 1997 regarding 'financial irregularities' and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government there-on?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The news-item appearing in the Dainik Jagaran dated 18 December, 1996 refers, inter-alia, to 'imbalances' in primary co-operative societies and reported financial irregularities in a large number of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). While the responsibility of overseeing the working of PACS vests with the State Government, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been entrusted with the responsibility of inspecting Co-operative banks under the provisions of Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Accordingly, NABARD has been periodically inspecting these institutions.

NABARD has reported that Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Uttar Pradesh had ordered an investigation into the allegations, the findings of which have revealed, inter-alia, that the actual amount of imbalances as on 31st March, 1995 stood at Rs.245.50 crores instead of Rs. 1200.00 crores, as reported in the newspaper. The factors responsible for these imbalances are, inter-alia, insufficient margins in disbursement of short-term credit, utilisation of recoveries in meeting the cost of management, levying of interest on the existing amount of imbalances, adjustment of recoveries towards losses on account of wastage of seeds and fertilizers, inadequate margin in consumer business and fair price shops and non-levying of interest when the amount of interest becomes equal to the principal.

(c) With a view to avoid recurrence of the problem of imbalances, an action plan has been drawn to make societies viable which, inter-alia, envisages introduction of a proper head of account to reflect cost of management. Instructions have been issued to ensure that the payment of wages to the employees of societies should invariably be made from out of the above head of account. Further introduction of financial discipline regarding recovery of at least 40% of demand has left an impact on the banks and they are making vigorous follow-up to ensure better recovery performance. It is expected that this would help in removing the problem of default at society level.

#### **Rewards to Informers of Income Tax**

1769. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are cases relating to giving rewards to those informers on the basis of those information

on which raids were conducted and additional tax amount was collected, pending with the Income Tax Department for several years;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of pending group cases in which payment of reward amount has not been made finally even after lapse of five years from the date of conduction of raids on the basis of information given by the informers;
- (d) the rules regarding the time-limit for making payment of reward amount to informers; and
- (e) the action proposed to be taken by the Government for expeditious disbursement of reward amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yesm Sir. there are some cases of final rewards which are pending with I.T. Department for several years.

(b) to (e) Interim reward has been paid to all eligible informers. As per existing rules, final reward is to be given only on finalisation of all proceedings, including assessments and appeals etc. and after the additional taxes attributable to the information furnished by the informer have been realised. Many of the assessments pertaining to the aforesaid cases have not yet become final and/or taxes not recovered. Therefore, there cannot be any definite time frame for the disbursement of such reward. However, the Central Board of Direct Taxes has, from time to time, issued instructions to subordinate authorities for early disposal of such assessments and quick disbursement of reward to informants.

#### **Jute Prices**

1770. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the prices of jute have sharply fallen in the recent weeks and adversely affected thereby lakhs of jute growers in the country;
- (b) whether the Jute Corporation of India has made no procurement of jute during the current year and the Union Government's order for use of jute bags are not being implemented effectively;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken/being taken to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir. Prices of raw jute have started falling sharply in the recent weeks due mainly to expected huge surplus of supply over requirement following harvesting of a bumper crop in the current season and availability of large carry over stock from 1996-97 season.

(b) to (d) In order to arrest the declining trend in prices of raw jute in the current season and to ensure implementa-

tion of Jute Packaging Order the following measures have been taken:

- (a) Funds have been released by the Ministry of Textiles to JCI to start up MSP operations;
- (b) Reserve Bank of India have also authorised JCI on enhanced credit limit valid upto July, 1997.
- (c) Government of India have also sanctioned a Bank Guarantee for securing required credit from the Banks.
- (d) Further budgetary support will be given to JCI shortly to enhance the activities relating to MSP operations.
- (e) Ministry of Textiles has already written to the Ministry of Food and the Ministry of Fertilisers and Chemicals to instruct the FCI and other Fertiliser Companies respectively to place the orders for jute bags. It is hoped that the demand for jute bags will certainly go up as the bulk purchasers have started placing the orders.

(f) Orders under clause 9 A of the Jute (Licensing & Control) Order, 1961 have been issued by the Jute Commissioner on 14.7.1997 directing jute mills to step up purchases of raw jute. Strict watch is being kept over observance of this directive.

(g) Compulsory linkage with purchase of raw jute from JCI against B.Twill allocation to jute mills from August, '97 onwards is under consideration so as to enable JCI to maximise purchases by simultaneous disposal to mills.

(h) In order to tone up depressed gunny market, foodgrains procuring agencies have, on Jute Commissioner's request, placed sizable order for jute bags for next Kharif packaging for delivery during July, 1997 to October, '97 which is expected to have a stabilising effect on raw jute prices.

(i) Prices situation is being monitored closely.

(j) Jute Commissioner has been directed to ensure strict implementation of the Reservation Order for jute Packaging.

[Translation]

#### **Exports From Bihar**

1771. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a comprehensive study and survey has been made or proposed to be made to explore the export potential from Bihar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of agricultural and mineral export potential therein; and
- (d) the steps being taken for achieving optimum development of the State by promoting maximum export from the State?